

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 /087 W
-----038072 141557Z /40

R 141046Z DEC 77

FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7057

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDEV, RH, UK, US

SUBJECT: RHODESIA: MUGABE REAFFIRMS SUPPORT FOR ELECTIONS
BEFORE INDEPENDENCE

1. ADDRESSING THE TANZANIA JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION IN DAR ES SALAAM DECEMBER 13, PATRIOTIC FRONT CO-LEADER ROBERT MUGABE REAFFIRMED PF SUPPORT FOR ELECTIONS BEFORE INDEPENDENCE "BUT ON CONDITION THAT THE PROBLEM IS SOLVED THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE COLONIAL POWER AND THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ZIMBABWEAN PEOPLE". IF THE SMITH REGIME WAS REMOVED BY FORCE, HE SAID, ELECTIONS WOULD HAVE TO COME AFTER INDEPENDENCE.

2. MUGABE SAID THE PATRIOTIC FRONT WOULD ACCEPT SMITH'S ONE-MAN, ONE-VOTE OFFER ONLY IF IT WAS ACCOMPANIED BY A GENUINE TRANSFER OF POWER. HE SPELLED OUT LATTER TO INCLUDE DISMANTLING SMITH'S FORCES, AND "OVERHAUL THE WHOLE CIVIL SERVICE WHICH IS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DOMINATED BY WHITES SO THAT IT CAN BE IN ACCORD WITH THE INTERESTS OF THE MAJORITY". HE DOUBTED THAT SMITH INTENDED TO "LEGISLATE HIMSELF OUT OF POWER" TO ACCOMMODATE THE INTERESTS OF THE BLACK MAJORITY. THUS, ANY INTERNAL SETTLEMENT WAS AIMED AT FACILITATING A PLOT (ONE REPORT OF HIS STATEMENT SAID HE CALLED IT A BRITISH PLOT) TO INSTALL A WHITE REGIME THAT WOULD MAINTAIN THE WHITE-DOMINATED POWER STRUCTURE.

3. MUGABE CLAIMED PROGRESS ON THE MILITARY FRONT AND SAID THE TIME WAS NEAR WHEN LIBERATED ZONES COULD BE ESTABLISHED WHERE THE MASSES COULD "INVOLVE THEMSELVES IN SELF-RELIANCE PROJECTS LIKE FARMING AND EDUCATION".

4. MUGABE SAID THE PATRIOTIC FRONT WOULD MEET NEXT WEEK TO

DISCUSS NEW AREAS OF MILITARY COOPERATION. IT WAS NOT DISCLOSED WHERE THE MEETING WOULD BE.

5. COMMENT. MUGABE GAVE HIS SPEECH WITH FOREIGN MINISTER MKAPA, A TRUSTEE OF THE JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION, LITERALLY LOOKING OVER HIS SHOULDER. TANGOV SHOULD BE PLEASED WITH WHAT HE SAID. MUGABE MAY HOPE CURRENT AND OTHER RECENT VISITS WILL IMPROVE HIS STANDING IN DAR ES SALAAM. TANGOV VIEW OF MUGABE HAS BEEN THAT HE HAS LARGE SHARE OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR PATRIOTIC FRONT DISUNITY AND THUS HAS BEEN AN OBSTACLE TO A RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT.
WALKER

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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